

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following listing provides the amended claims with deleted material crossed out and new material underlined to show the changes made.

1-17 (Cancel).

18. (New) An integrated circuit comprising:

at least one metal layer comprising first and second sections;

the first section having a first preferred direction and at least one thousand conductors traversing along the first preferred direction, wherein a preferred direction, within a section, defines a direction, relative to the boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in the section;

a second section having a second diagonal preferred direction different from the first preferred direction and at least one thousand conductors traversing along the second preferred direction;

wherein the first and second directions are neither parallel nor orthogonal to each other.

19. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, wherein the first preferred direction comprises a diagonal direction.

20. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first preferred direction is an octilinear direction and the second preferred direction is an hexilinear direction.

21. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an octilinear direction.

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22. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an hexalinear direction.

23. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a third section having a third diagonal preferred direction.

24. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a third section having a third Manhattan preferred direction.

25. (New) An integrated circuit comprising:

at least one metal layer comprising first and second sections;

the first section comprising a plurality of conductors and having a first preferred direction, wherein a preferred direction, within a section, defines a direction, relative to the boundaries of the integrated circuit, for at least fifty percent of conductors in the section;

a second section comprising a plurality of conductors and having a second diagonal preferred direction different from the first preferred direction, said second section abutting the first section and a set of conductors traverse both the first and second sections and a plurality of conductors in the set traverse along the first preferred direction in the first section and traverse along the second preferred direction in the second section;

wherein the first and second directions are neither parallel nor orthogonal to each other.

26. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, wherein the first preferred direction comprises a diagonal direction.

27. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 26, wherein the first preferred direction is an octalinear direction and the second preferred direction is an hexalinear direction.

28. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an octilinear direction.

29. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, wherein the second preferred diagonal direction comprises an hexilinear direction.

30. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, further comprising a third section having a third diagonal preferred direction.

31. (New) The integrated circuit as set forth in claim 25, further comprising a third section having a third Manhattan preferred direction.